

The Times-Dispatch

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1911.

THE LAST CALL.

Pay your poll-tax today or forfeit your right to participate in what may be one of the most vital elections in the history of Richmond. This is the last day for paying poll-taxes. If you have been protesting that this city must have better government and a better form of government and have failed to pay your poll-tax and do not do it today, keep silent hereafter about Richmond's government, be it ever so ill. If the Board of Aldermen refuses to give the people of Richmond next Tuesday night that progressive plan of government they are demanding, then the supporters of that plan ought to be in a position to rebuke and repudiate next spring the individual members who failed to back this great issue of a city government that will give the people what they want. Is the running of the city your business, or is it the business of the ward politicians? Pay your poll-tax today and be ready to show the politicians that you are going to have your say about your city government.

THE MILLS PROPOSAL.

Mr. Mills' proposal to secure a special act of the Legislature in order to submit to the people of Richmond the question of changing the form of the city government is more specious than specific. Doubtless Mr. Mills feels or would say that as a representative of the people of Richmond he is willing to trust the people to pass on the questions that concern the public welfare. So far, so good. Nobody questions nor doubts that the people have a right to decide, within the rules laid down by law, all things concerning the public welfare. But in Virginia the people have chosen to decide these questions by representative government. The only possible excuse for the referendum in Council, or Legislature, or Congress have shown themselves unable, unit or unwilling to carry out the popular will. In which of these categories does Mr. Mills place the Common Council?

The Times-Dispatch has no doubt that the people of Richmond, after hearing full arguments and taking full counsel with trained and competent constitutional lawyers and business men, could frame fully as good a draft of the proposed amendment of the city charter as that prepared by the special committee of the Council of the city of Richmond.

We very gravely doubt if the citizens of Richmond, under the present constitutional inhibition and restraints, could do any better.

If Mr. Mills desires to see Richmond relieved of the burden of ward politics and inefficient committee government, why does he not lend the weight of his influence to put through the present measure before the Board of Aldermen?

Mr. Mills is justly regarded as one of the cleverest men in the Council, but we cannot think that it will reflect much credit on Mr. Mills' political sagacity to drag so obvious and so tattered a red herring as his last proposal offers across the trail on which the whole city is now heading towards simplified government.

What the people of Richmond now want is to go as far as they can under the Constitution of Virginia, and then to amend the Constitution. It is futile and foolish to delay action along a line which the Council has overwhelmingly indorsed, on the ground that the people of Richmond want to take away from the Council the enactment of its ordinances. The people of Richmond desire no such burden laid upon them. There is no need to embarrass or inumber the voters of this city with the work which they have specifically intrusted to their Councilmen and Aldermen.

If the Mills proposal is really intended to further good government, it is a fifth wheel; if it is not so intended, that is another matter.

MR. VANDERLIP ON "BUSINESS."

Ever since a stock market panic followed hard on the heels of Mr. Frank A. Vanderlip's declaration some seven or eight years ago that there were too many undigested securities, the oracular outpourings of that gentleman have been matters of grave concern to the speculative public. For this reason Mr. Vanderlip's interview in the Outlook on the present state of business is regarded as most important. Had that article come from any less distinguished source, it would not have deserved a moment's attention from the public at large.

In diagnosing the business situation, Mr. Vanderlip begins by declaring that "nothing serious" is the matter. To confirm this view he states that the "consumptive demand of the nation is nearly up to normal. Nowhere is there overproduction or undue expansion. Our banking and credit position is as sound as we could hope it might be under our defective banking laws."

All this is true, and Mr. Vanderlip

might have added that railroad gross earnings are the highest in the history of this country; that railroad net earnings are only a little below those of 1910; that the value of new securities issued, with the sole exception of the record for 1909, is the high water mark; that bank clearings for the country at large have increased over last year, and that imports and exports of merchandise have both increased. Surely these facts are enough to justify Mr. Vanderlip's conclusion that "nothing serious" is the matter with business.

And yet Mr. Vanderlip goes on in almost the next breath to declare that "the disturbed state of mind now universal among business men and capitalists is due to the chaotic situation resulting from the attempt to adjust business to a law." The voice is the voice of Vanderlip, but the hand is the hand of Roosevelt. It was the "contributing editor" who first called business conditions chaotic. That term is copyrighted. It may not be used by mere interviewers. But is business chaotic? Are not the minds of "big business" men chaotic?

Mr. Vanderlip recognizes that we are now in a transition stage, where the conscience and the intelligence of the American public are demanding a fair distribution of the profits, and a fair use of the power that flows from the creation of "big business" units. This demand does not spell communism or anarchy. No nation has ever yet suffered in material prosperity by following moral principles. The United States will not prove an exception. Mr. Vanderlip is wrong when he confuses national morality with business destruction. The Sherman law, as President Taft has said, does not penalize mere greatness. It lays no embargo on economies in production or intelligence in administration. It does not even seek, as Mr. Vanderlip declares, "to break up big business units and punish as criminals their organizers." But the Sherman law was intended and does intend to criminally punish business brigands, be they big or little. It was designed to restrain business assassination, and it will carry out that design if it is not emasculated by Congress or interpreted by Wall Street.

Mr. Vanderlip is a high and able financier, but the conscience of the country is higher, more far-seeing, more able to grasp the truth than even Mr. Vanderlip. Some day—perhaps after a threatened business depression, which so alarms Mr. Vanderlip—this country will start on a new era of booming business, great profits and astounding prosperity. That period will far surpass and far outlast all that have gone before if big business has learned and decided to follow old morals.

PASS THE COMPLETE ORDINANCE.

It was the sense of the meeting of the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce yesterday that the Board of Aldermen should, acting for the best interest of all the people of Richmond, pass the plan for a better form of city government just as it comes to them from the Common Council. This action is significant, because it represents the views of a body of men who not only stand for the business interests of the city, but likewise are in touch with and know the opinions of thousands of their employees in commercial and industrial enterprises.

This view is the best one, and it is the right one. If the Board of Aldermen will pass the whole plan without altering a single sentence or injecting even a comma, the matter will end right there. If amendments are allowed, the whole matter will go back to the Common Council, and time will be lost, and the whole plan may be torn to pieces, never to be put together again. A vote against the ordinance as it now stands will be a vote to kill it.

The Aldermen who vote solidly for this whole ordinance next Tuesday night will record themselves as the friends of the people of Richmond; those who vote otherwise will be remembered by the people as representatives who dodged the issue, were led by demagogues, and who deliberately blocked the progress of the city and the welfare of every one of its citizens.

COMPETITION AND EXPORTS.

The Atlantic Monthly for December has a most interesting article by Mr. T. Good, an expert on economic problems.

The article is a striking and convincing presentation of Mr. Good's belief that the organization of the steel trust in America, whatever else it may have done, assuredly did not secure for America, or even maintain, the ascendancy which this country had in the export steel business before the trust was formed.

From 1897 to 1900 the then competing manufacturers of this country practically captured the markets of the world for American made steel products. In those three years our steel exports increased 100 per cent. "So alarmed were we in England," says Mr. Good, "that one of our leading public men cried out that our only hope of salvation lay in becoming an American colony." But even English public men cannot foresee the future, and the English and German manufacturers did not and could not know that America was going to throw away the economies taught by the bitter depressions from 1890 to 1893, nor did the foreigners know that the steel business would be overdone, overcapitalized and overbuilt. Yet that in exactly what happened, and to-day this country, with steel mills enough to supply nine-tenths of the world's demand after supplying the home mar-

ket, has only one-tenth of the export trade. Both England and Germany surpass America as an exporting country.

Mr. Good finds that this situation has been caused by the higher cost of manufacture in America, which, in turn, depends upon the general advance in cost, due to over-capitalization, extravagant prices paid for properties and the high tariff. These facts point to several very interesting conclusions. For instance, we are told that great corporations are essential to national prosperity. But are they? Has the steel corporation added to the sum total of wealth or prosperity of this country? It has not even held its own in the foreign field, and it would not have held its own in the home field but for the tariff. The simple truth seems to be that it costs more to manage a trust of huge proportions than a more reasonably sized business, and all waste finally comes back to the consumer, on whose shoulders the burdens of business are finally laid.

The Indianapolis News, a sound, Democratic paper, says:

"All this makes us realize how short men's memories are, how false is their reading of recent history. People forget how prosperous we were before a single trust was born. Indeed, trusts were the outgrowth of prosperity rather than the cause of it. Men saw what great profits there were in the steel business, for instance, and they set about to get control of the steel industry—not to make it profitable, but to get the profits that were already being earned. The people of this country are not dependent on the Morgans and the Rockefellers for business capital and energy, and their own capital and energy, and the marvelous resources of the nation. Of course, we shall always have big corporations and great aggregations of capital, but these, to be helpful, ought to grow naturally out of developing business rather than out of the monopolistic activities of so-called kings of finance. The assumption that competition is doomed is as baseless as is the theory that trusts are essential to prosperity. If Mr. Good is right the steel trust has hindered rather than helped the development of the steel industry. Freedom and competition are among the most beneficial factors in the industrial life of a people. Competition is a better regulator than Mr. Gary's 'circles of friendly intercourse,' and a much safer and more efficient one than a government officer."

The President's message makes the Sherman law and trusts a dominant issue before this Congress, and they will doubtless continue a dominant issue before the people for many years, but the idea that only big organizations can produce goods cheaply and efficiently is a fallacy that Mr. Good's article successfully explodes.

"CINDERS, ASHES, DUST."

"A hot, with water and a crust, cinders, ashes, dust," wrote the brilliant but poor and unfortunate Keats, to whom life seemed most unkind, and if the line were a familiar one it would have been recalled yesterday when some of us read the story of three colored women who were burned in a cave-in of the dump at the end of Thirteenth Street. They were picking cinders to be taken home for fuel, when suddenly the pile gave way and the women were precipitated into the midst of a bed of glowing coals. It was an awful scene. One woman was nearly burned to death, and the two others were severely injured. Shuddering and screaming, they were taken from the hidden pyre upon which they had fallen, and two of them went back to their bare and chill hovels to receive what little care cinder-pickers may expect.

It is not a pleasant phase of life to think on—that there are those who must live on the scum of life. Here are these unfortunates, warming their shivering bodies by the poor fire which can be coaxed out of the burnt-out fuel left from the grates and furnaces of the rich, even of the well-to-do and the not quite well-to-do. It is sad to reflect that in a world so filled with sunshine and warmth and light there are places where these things do not penetrate, and that there are people to whom Fate has been most unkind of all. What a thin line of leaden hues stretches between them and the stinking spectre, and yet the spark does not go out! If they had been put to the stake their names would have been heralded far and wide, but since they were only the victims of an economic system, some few people read about them and felt the horror of it—and that was all.

I am a native of old Fauquier county, Va. I was with Mosby in the sixties. B. L. FLETCHER.
 Gotoke, Okla.

Down in Lincoln county, where they have been hearing all the details of this Shady Bend party since it began to be considered, they are getting tired of it. Particularly are those who participated in that impromptu function due to smell hell for several years to come, which is the way of the world, whether it is a good way or not; if it's coming to man he is apt to get it. See, they are tired of tar down there, and it has cast a blot on the community which may reduce the price of real estate, and cause a number of citizens to go elsewhere and try to forget it, although they can't.

They are tired of tar down there, but it has made a mark on that rural community which will show until its oldest inhabitant begins to tell what a hard winter we had in 1911. There is an unusual offense; unusual to an extent that no law can be found to fit it.

Per Cent.
 Ad Valorem Duty.
 Sugar.....78.87
 Champagne.....70
 Automobiles.....45
 Pats.....69
 Paints and statuary.....15
 Diamonds.....10

That statistical statement, taken by itself, demonstrates clearly the absurdly high duty on sugar—an exaction that amounts to highway robbery. The Hardwick committee, in its investigations last summer, obtained from Claus A. Spreckels, then president of the Independent Federal Refining Company, the statement that the sugar tariff increases the cost of refined sugar about 2 cents a pound to the consumer. This, on the normal consumption of the United States, amounts to \$150,000,000 a year, while the national revenue derived from the duty on sugar is only \$50,000,000. It is plain, then, that for every dollar that the sugar tariff yields the gov-

ernment it yields the sugar trust or other beneficiaries \$2. No wonder the trust is so determined in its fight for an unreluctant duty.

The wholesale grocers declare that the American sugar industry—the beet and cane raw sugar production—does not need the tariff. In support of that statement they quote H. O. Havemeyer's declaration, made in an annual report to stockholders before the sugar trust became interested in the development of the beet sugar industry:

"Sugar is a necessity of life. With the duty on raw sugar removed, the price of refined would permit of its being used by the poorest people. The people are beginning to characterize the tax on sugar as a 'hunger tax.' . . . A removal of the tax would be a great blessing to the entire community."

Later, as was brought out in the investigation last summer, he capitalized the tariff put on sugar for the sake of American producers, and took back what he said, as quoted above. The outrageous tax is still there. It amounts to 17 per cent. of our national revenues. Does anybody deny that that is too heavy a duty upon a necessary that every one of us must have? It is a tax estimated to average more than \$8 on every family.

The Senate has ordered 15,000 copies of Senator Lodge's address this year before the North Carolina Historical Society printed as a public document for general distribution. This was done at the request of Senator Overman, of North Carolina, but he forgot to claim in his speech that Senator Lodge was born in North Carolina.

The "candy kids" will be glad to know that the census of the confectionery industry shows that the value of candy products was \$134,736,000 in 1909 and \$17,087,000 in 1904, an increase of \$47,700,000, or 55 per cent. Most of this was bought by \$5-a-week lads for their "cuties."

A Kansas farmer has rigged up a horseless carriage by attaching a big sail to his buggy, and hopes to do his Christmas shopping in Richmond.

Did anybody see Champ Clark blush the other day when the doorkeeper of the House, bringing in the President's message, addressed the Speaker as "Mr. President?"

Only thirteen more shopping days before Xmas.

To-day is the last day for paying your poll tax.

Don't forget to ask your Aldermen to vote for the new plan for a better form of city government just as it comes up from the Common Council.

Young man, go to the City Hall today and pay your poll tax.

James Berry, for many years the official hangman of Great Britain, says that the American fashion of electrocuting criminals is horrible. He has a method of hanging men which he invented, and which was so quick in its execution that his subjects were always found afterwards to have no facial contortion, but "with their features wrapped in a smile."

It is about time for Mr. Taft to be casting about for a job as contributing editor. He will need it before long.

"Do your shopping now" is a very excellent motto, but one better still is, "Let your wife do your shopping now."

Voice of the People

Lawlessness in Kansas.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir:—The enclosed clipping, taken from the Wichita Eagle, of Wichita, Kan., acts as a balm on the many wounds I have received from Northern critics in regard to Southern lynchings. Whenever a State takes the flatterer's position, it is sure to be the model of perfection, then, just as sure as fate, its pride is inviting a fall.

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A Boy in Winter Time

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A letter to Santy.

La Marquise de Fontenoy

It was a very graceful act of President Fallieres, to present to King Peter of Serbia, on the occasion of his recent visit to Paris, the very first of the medals struck at the national mint, and which are being awarded to all those who served with honor under the French flag in the Franco-German War of 1870. For the King, as a young man, took a very active part in that conflict, being a good deal of a Frenchman. At the early age of eight he left Serbia to become the inmate of a school at Geneva. In 1855 his family was exiled from Serbia, and Peter, who was only fourteen years old at the time, quitted Geneva for Paris, where he completed his studies at the College St. Barbe. In 1862, at the age of eighteen, he was admitted to the Military Academy of St. Cyr, which is the French counterpart of the United States Military Academy at West Point. From thence in 1864, he then took a course at the Staff College at Metz, and subsequently retiring from the French army with the honorary grade of captain.

In spite of this commission, he at once, when the war with Germany broke out in the summer of 1870, listed as a volunteer in the ranks of the Fifth Battalion of the Foreign Legion at Tours, and took part in the fighting against the Bavarians who were attempting to enter Orleans. During the course of this campaign he was captured by the Germans. His escape was costly, daring and romantic. It was during, because he swam the River Loire in flood. It was expensive, because he had stolen the route to the river with gold pieces to the value of 10,000 francs, which the Bavarians seized and sold. He was in his pursuit were so eager to gather up that they had no time to take care of him. He was, because a young daughter of his, who in whose farmhouse he was detained as a prisoner had helped him to escape. He was, because he was a graduate of St. Cyr and of the Staff College at Metz.

Since Peter has become King of Serbia, he has received the grand cordon of the Legion of Honor from the republic. But he still wears, in conjunction therewith, when in uniform, the plain cross of chevalier of the Legion of Honor, which he won on the battlefield of Villersexel, a cross which he has received from the French government. He has been made a knight of the Legion of Honor, which he won on the battlefield of Villersexel, a cross which he has received from the French government. He has been made a knight of the Legion of Honor, which he won on the battlefield of Villersexel, a cross which he has received from the French government.

Relatively few people are aware that the War of 1870 was not the only one in which Peter Karageorgievitch took part. He likewise fought in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877. He was the hero under the flag of his father-in-law, King Nicholas of Montenegro, and partly, too, as an officer of the Russian army.

Alfonso XIII. has threatened his aunt, the Infanta Eulalie, directly, by telegraph, and also through his ambassadors in Paris, where she lives, with divers pains and penalties, for defying him, in persisting in placing upon the market on Monday last her extraordinary book, entitled "The Vile," without having previously communicated its contents to him, and received his approval.

Without entering into the question as to the merits of the book, it may be just as well to review very briefly the points, which it is within his power to inflict upon the prince. In the first place, he can deprive her of her rank and her prerogatives as an Infanta, the wife of a prince, as a princess of the reigning house of Spain. If he were to cause

his ambassadors and envoys abroad to communicate a message to that effect to the various governments to which they are accredited, these governments would have no alternative but to withdraw from the princess the extraordinary privileges and immunities which she had theretofore enjoyed; prerogatives similar to those of diplomatic representatives, carrying with them exemption from local jurisdiction of every kind. Foreign governments would likewise have to withhold from her the various honors, military and otherwise, accorded to visiting royalty, and foreign courts would be expected to keep their doors closed to her. As an illustration of this, I need merely cite the case of Grand Duke Michael Michaelovitch, who, until the Czar, a number of years after his unauthorized marriage with Countess Sophie, Merenberg (now called Torby), restored to him his commission in the army, and his status and prerogatives as a Russian prince of the blood, was treated by the French government during his stay in France as an ordinary foreigner, enjoying none of the rights or immunities which he was wise fall to the share of Russian grand dukes on French soil; that is to say, he was amenable to the ordinary courts, and was obliged to pay taxes, duties, etc.

Princess Eulalie talks in her news paper interviews, as if she were meditating a return to her native land, to her estates in Spain, and seems to be of the opinion that she is entirely independent in a financial way. Now, it is in the power of her nephew, the King, individually, or in conjunction with the French government, to either confiscate whatever estates she may have in Spain, or to vest their control in the hands of trustees, who would withhold from her the annuity of \$50,000 from the Spanish civil list, and upon the dowry, and from her husband's wealthy husband, from whom she has long been separated. She had nothing when she married, in the shape of money, and she certainly inherited nothing from her parents, her mother Queen Isabella, having died heavily in debt. The late King Francis made a point of having all the family property, which was not large, to his grandson, the present King, who, however, has attached no value to it.

Alfonso can, of course, check her civil list, and is certain to do so; and her husband, Prince Anthony of Orleans, Duke of Athens, is certainly doing closer touch with the court of Madrid than his wife, may be depended upon to take a still more determined stand against her, and for herself, and the difficulties about continuing her allowance. Nor would she have any redress against him. For, ranking no as a prince of the house of France, but as an infant of Spain, he enjoys immunity from the jurisdiction of the French tribunals; so that it would be impossible for his wife, even though reduced to the rank of an ordinary citizen, to sue him in the French courts for anything in the nature of alimony.

When to the above it is added that Princess Eulalie has inherited from her mother, Queen Isabella, the fault of extravagance, or rather a constitutional inability to appreciate the value of money, and to make her expenditures balance in any way with her income, and that she is chronically in debt, it will be seen that the outlook for her is somewhat dark. For her gifts as a writer, as shown by the extracts from her recently published book, do not hold out any promise of her ever being able to make for herself an income that is in the least degree princely, by means of her pen.

In Paris her impunctuality has long been a matter of notoriety, and it is to this that has been ascribed her extraordinary friendships with such members of the most unpopular and vulgar and of doubtful antecedents, who have had nothing but their wealth to recommend them, in her eyes, and who have not hesitated to turn her to ready acceptance of their hospitality, and her presence at their table, no matter how sordid, but to business account. The people I have in mind have been not only Europeans, but also some Americans, well known in New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago.

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Eleven Hundred and Nine East Main Street

Is the temporary home of one of Richmond's old and tried banks—a Government, State and City Depository.

MAKE THIS BANK YOUR BANK

Look out for the boy that buys a diamond with his first earnings. If he's anything in a fellow's second wife'll get it out.

Edmond Fontaine.

Charlottesville, November, 1911.